

Conservation Security Program Self Assessment Worksheet for Tier II Eligibility - Meeting Vermont Quality Criteria for Stream Temperature

To be eligible for Tier II payments under the Conservation Security Program (CSP) all land in your operation must meet the Vermont Quality Criteria for stream temperature by the end of the contract period, as well as all criteria for Tier I. The stream temperature criteria helps ensure that perennial streams and rivers, less than 50 feet in width, have adequate shade to maintain the temperature regimes required for the cold and warm water fisheries in the State. The evaluation is based on the percentage of streambank on offered land that has adequate shade, as described below. You must include both sides of the stream or river unless you do not own or operate the land on the opposite side of the stream.

Question #1:

On all of the land in your operation do 70 percent or more of the perennial (flowing all year) stream and river banks contain trees and or shrubs that provide significant shading (see definition on page 2) to the stream or river channel? Percent of total streambank = ____.

Circle an Answer:

YES NO Not Applicable

If you answered yes or Not Applicable (no perennial streams or rivers on or adjacent to the land) than you are potentially eligible for CSP Tier II payments, stop here and sign the form on the opposite page. If you answered no, go to question #2. (photographs of examples are provided on the right)

Question #2:

Have trees and/or shrubs been recently planted on perennial stream and river banks and are being managed so that significant shade (see definition on next page) will be provided to the stream or river channel in future years? Percent of total streambank = ____.

And, do the combined total areas of #1 and #2 equal or exceed 70 percent of the total stream or river bank on the potentially eligible land? Total percentage = ____.

Circle an Answer:

YES NO

WELL SHADED STREAM – ELIGIBLE



RECENTLY PLANTED STREAMBANK - ELIGIBLE



POORLY SHADED STREAM - NOT ELIGIBLE



Please Complete the Form on the Back

NRCS, VT
April 2005

If you answered yes to Question #1 or you answered yes to both parts of Question #2 than you are potentially eligible for CSP Tier II payments, stop here and sign the form below.

If you answered no to both questions #1 and #2, then you are not eligible for CSP Tier II payments unless you agree to plant forested buffers to meet the criteria by the end of the contract period.

| | | | |
|--|-----|----|--------------------------------|
| I agree to plant forested buffers on the required streambanks. | | | |
| Circle one answer: | YES | NO | Would Like More Information |

| |
|---|
| Signature Block |
| I certify that the information provided on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge. |
| Printed Name: _____ |
| Signature: _____ |
| Date: _____ |

| |
|---|
| Certification of Review |
| I have reviewed this assessment and the answers meet CSP enrollment criteria for Tier II and are consistent with any farm records provided during the verification: |
| NRCS Representative: _____ |
| Date: _____ |

Definitions for significant shading:

For very small streams (3 feet or less in width) significant shading may be provided by tall upright grasses that are not mowed.

For smaller streams (less than 6 feet in width) significant shading may be provided by taller growing shrubs (6 to 20 feet) if they are planted on the streambank in close proximity to the actual stream channel.

For larger streams (6 feet or wider) **and rivers** trees must be present or recently planted on the streambank.

For all streams and rivers the shrubs or trees should be present in more than one row and should be located close enough to each other so that the crowns of the shrubs or trees will touch each other when the plants are mature.